

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: Child Protection Officer (Gender Based Violence and Prevention)		
UNICEF Malawi is seeking to engage a temporary appointment to provide coordination, technical support and advice to the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the Child Protection component of the Social Policy for Gender Empowerment and Resilience (SP-GEAR) Programme in Malawi.		
Engagement contract	Temporary Appointment	
Post Level	P2	
Location	Lilongwe, Malawi	
Duration	364 days	
Supervisor	Kristina Wesslund, Chief Child Protection	
Funding details	Funding source	SC240018
	WBS	2690/A0/07/882/001/009 2690/A0/07/882/004/003
	Validity date	31 Dec 2026

1. ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT

The fundamental mission of UNICEF is to promote the rights of every child, everywhere, in everything the organization does — in programs, in advocacy and in operations. The equity strategy, emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families, translates this commitment to children’s rights into action. For UNICEF, equity means that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias or favoritism. To the degree that any child has an unequal chance in life — in its social, political, economic, civic and cultural dimensions — her or his rights are violated. There is growing evidence that investing in the health, education and protection of a society’s most disadvantaged citizens — addressing inequity — not only will give all children the opportunity to fulfill their potential but also will lead to sustained growth and stability of countries. This is why the focus on equity is so vital. It accelerates progress towards realizing the human rights of all children, which is the universal mandate of UNICEF, as outlined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, while also supporting the equitable development of nations.

Strategic office context: The UNICEF Malawi Country Programme (2024-2028) works through a One-UN approach based on the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) Strategic Priorities. 2024-2028). All four strategic priorities of the UNSCDF 2024-2028 hold significance to UNICEF and the priorities identified for children: i) Economic Development, ii) Governance, iii) Human Capital Development, and iv) Climate Change. UNICEF co-leads the further elaboration and results in developing the Human Capital

Development strategic priority. The intent of the UNICEF CPD 2024-2028 is fully aligned with these priorities, which are also directly linked to the pillars of Malawi Vision 2063, and the Malawi Implementation Plan (MIP, 2030).

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread, persistent, and devastating human rights violations in the world today. It is a major obstacle to the fulfillment of women's and girls' human rights and development and therefore a threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. While there have been efforts to address and eliminate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Harmful Practices (HP) in the African region, with the objective to improve access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) awareness, progress has remained slow and uneven. It is increasingly clear that the elimination of all forms of SGBV and HP is intrinsically connected to transformation of gender and socio-cultural norms including those related to women's sexuality and reproduction; highlighting the need to improve boys' and girls' access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health information and services.

In Malawi, data from the Violence Against Children Survey (VACS 2015) reveals that one in five girls and one in seven boys have experienced at least one incident of sexual abuse before the age of 18, which in turn leads to higher levels of child marriage. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS, 2019-2020) shows that seven per cent of the interviewed women were married before the age of 15, and 38 per cent were married before the age of 18. Only 40 per cent of all women who had ever experienced any type of physical or sexual violence sought help to stop violence; 49 per cent never sought any help nor informed anyone about the violence they had experienced. Amongst those who sought help, most sought help from their families and only 10 per cent sought help from the police (National Statistical Office, 2017).

At national level, strengthening the child protection infrastructure and service delivery was outlined as one of the key Strategic Actions of the National Child Protection Strategy for Malawi for 2022 – 2026, with the main interventions aiming to: (i) improve awareness of gender and child related laws and redress mechanisms; (ii) enhance capacity of social service workforce for child protection and those in other sectors providing services to children through training; (iii) strengthen community-based structures to prevent and respond to child protection risks.

UNICEF together with the Government of Malawi is implementing a Programme on Social Protection for Gender Empowerment and Resilience (SP-GEAR) 2024 – 2026 with financing from the European Union and the Government of Ireland. The Specific Objective 3 of the programme aims at ***enhancing access to social services by women and girls from vulnerable households***. This Programme has a strong gender transformation agenda for the households that are targeted with economic empowerment and linkages to other community services such as education, early childhood development, protection, and social and behaviour change.

2. PURPOSE OF THE JOB

Under the overall guidance and direction of the Chief of Child Protection, the **Child Protection Officer (Gender Based Violence and Prevention)** is expected to provide technical guidance,

operational support, and coordination throughout all stages of programming to facilitate the management and delivery of results under the child protection component of the SP-GEAR Programme with major focus on elimination of sexual and gender-based violence and promoting SRHR for women and girls coming from the most vulnerable families. In doing so, the Officer will build synergies and close linkages with the Social Policy interventions of the SP-GEAR Programme, thus ensuring that the social cash transfers beneficiaries can also access the community child protection, gender, and other services.

3. KEY FUNCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RELATED DUTIES/TASKS

The Child Protection Officer (GBV and Prevention) will have the following responsibilities:

a) Coordination of the Child Protection interventions

- Lead the Child Protection task team and ensure linkage between the Child Protection, Social Protection, Education, ECD and SBC components of SP-GEAR.
- Coordination within the Child Protection Section, including monthly task team meetings.
- Ensure quality input and coordination of Specific Objective 3 (Enhancing access to complimentary social services by women and girls from vulnerable households) of the SP-GEAR.
- Ensure monthly tracking of the Child Protection progress under the Specific Objective 3 of SP-GEAR.
- Jointly with the Social Policy team produce updates to senior management and hold stakeholder meetings when required.

b) Technical support on SP-GEAR programming

- Technical support to district council working groups to strengthening pathways for cast transfer beneficiaries to access district social services.
- Support government and partner meetings at national, district and community level to develop mechanisms /platforms to monitor and coordinate social cash transfer with GBV - SRHR linkages.
- Technical support to Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs) to provide guidance and make referrals on cases of violence against women and children including adolescent girls.
- Support initiatives to empower adolescent girls with knowledge and skills to mitigate, prevent and respond to GBV through Child and Adolescent Friendly Spaces.
- Provide guidance and oversight on Journey of Life and community intergenerational dialogues among adolescent girls, young women and community structures with emphasis on transformative change.
- Technical support to capacity building activities.
- Reviewing of Terms of References, reports, advocacy materials as needed.
- Provide technical support to the Social Behaviour Change, Education, and Early Childhood Development components as requested.

c) Financial overview

- Ensuring budget overview and regular updates on expenditures.
- Tracking of budget revisions on SP-GEAR.

d) Planning and Reporting

- Ensure timely reporting on the Specific Objective 3 of the SP-GEAR.
- Undertake monitoring visits to project sites and support in reporting on any delays or changes.
- Contribute to resource mobilization activities, draft reports, project proposals, TORs, advocacy materials and other relevant documents if required.
- Support other programme activities related to child protection as required by the supervisor.

4. QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

- University degree in one of the following fields is required: International development, social science, human rights, psychology, or another relevant field.

Experience:

- At least 2 years of proven experience in coordination of gender-based violence programmes involving various stakeholders is required.
- Sound experience in facilitation of multi-stakeholder meetings and/or workshops is required.
- Experience in Child Protection programming
- Work experience in a developing country is considered an asset.
- Experience working with UN is considered an asset.
- Experience working in a multi-cultural environment is considered an asset.

Expected technical knowledge and skills:

- Professional expertise in gender empowerment with a special focus on protection, prevention and ending VAWG and promoting SRHR is required.
- Strong analytical and report writing skills are required.
- Strong communication and teamwork competencies are required.

Language:

- Fluency in English is required, both strong written and verbal skills.

5. COMPETENCIES




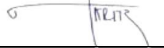
Core Values

- Care, Respect, Integrity, Trust, Accountability and Sustainability (CRITAS).

Core Competencies

(1) Builds and maintains partnerships (2) Demonstrates self-awareness and ethical awareness
 (3) Drive to achieve results for impact (4) Innovates and embraces change (5) Manages ambiguity and complexity (6) Thinks and acts strategically (7) Works collaboratively with others.

6. ENDORSEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE:

Function	Name	Signature	Date	Comment
Prepared by	Sergiu Rusanovschi Child Protection Specialist		14/05/2024	
Reviewed by	Human Resource Specialist		15 May 24	
	Kristina Wesslund Chief Child Protection		15.05.2024	
Endorsed by	Gerrit Maritz Deputy Representative Progr.		15.05.2024	